

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
Response Filed: January 3, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

II. AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS/CLAIMS LISTING

The below listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Presently Amended) A cover assembly for a gap between two structural members comprising:

an elongated resilient cover having a load bearing surface opposite a support surface including marginal support areas along opposite lateral edges thereof, said cover having a thickness and sufficient elasticity to elastically deform for establishing supporting contact between said marginal support areas and underlying horizontal structural members adjacent to [a] said gap between said horizontal structural members and a width sufficient to overlies portions of said horizontal structural members outwardly of said gap;

a rigid plate member secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover for bridging [a] said gap between said horizontal structural members; and

a plurality of fasteners engaged with said cover at spaced apart sites along at least one lateral side portion of said cover for elastically anchoring said elongated resilient cover to at least one of said horizontal structural members.

2. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

3. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
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4. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.
5. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.
6. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 5, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.
7. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.
8. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 1, comprising at least two rigid plate members secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover to extend along opposite lateral sides of said rigid plate member.
9. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 8, wherein said at least two rigid plate members are provided to allow elastic deformation of said cover and apply a biasing force in a direction to urge opposite lateral sides of said cover toward the horizontal structural members while resiliently deformed by traffic traversing said traffic bearing surface.
10. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 8, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
Response Filed: January 3, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

11. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 8, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

12. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 8, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.

13. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 8, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.

14. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 13, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.

15. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 14, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.

16. (Presently Amended) A cover assembly for a gap between horizontal structural members comprising:

an elongated resilient cover having a predetermined width sufficient to overlie portions of horizontal structural members outwardly of marginal edges to [a] said gap between the horizontal structural members;

a rigid plate member secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover, said rigid plate member defining an elongated bridging member having a width sufficient to span the width of [a] said gap between horizontal structural members while secured thereby; and

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
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Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

a plurality of fasteners to anchor said resilient cover along at least one marginal edge of said resilient cover to at least one of said horizontal structural members.

17. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 16, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

18. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 16, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

19. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 16, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.

20. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 16, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.

21. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 20, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.

22. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 21, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.

23. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 16, comprising at least two rigid plate members secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover to extend along opposite lateral sides of said rigid plate member.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
Response Filed: January 3, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

24. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 23, wherein said at least two rigid plate members are provided to allow elastic deformation of said cover and apply a biasing force in a direction to urge opposite lateral sides of said cover toward the horizontal structural members while resiliently deformed by traffic traversing said traffic bearing surface.

25. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 23, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

26. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 25, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

27. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 25, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.

28. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 25, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.

29. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 28, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.

30. (Original) The cover assembly of claim 29, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
Response Filed: January 3, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

31. (Presently Amended) An expansion joint for a building structure comprising:

two spaced structural members defining a gap therebetween; and

a cover assembly comprising an elongated resilient cover having a load bearing surface opposite a support surface including marginal support areas along opposite lateral edges thereof, said cover having a thickness and sufficient elasticity to elastically deform for establishing supporting contact between said marginal support areas and underlying horizontal structural members adjacent an expansion joint and a width sufficient to overlie portions of said horizontal structural members outwardly of said gap;

a rigid plate member secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover for bridging a joint formed in [a] said gap between said horizontal structural members; and

a plurality of fasteners engaged with said cover at spaced apart sites along at least one lateral side portion of said resilient cover to elastically anchor said elongated resilient cover to at least one of the horizontal structural members.

32. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 31, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

33. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 31, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

34. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 31, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
Response Filed: January 3, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: September 2, 2005

35. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 31, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.

36. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 35, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.

37. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 36, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.

38. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 31, comprising at least two rigid plate members secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover to extend along opposite lateral sides of said rigid plate member.

39. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 38, wherein said at least two rigid plate members are provided to allow elastic deformation of said cover and apply a biasing force in a direction to urge opposite lateral sides of said cover toward the horizontal structural members while resiliently deformed by traffic traversing said traffic bearing surface.

40. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 38, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises peripheral edges including tapered face surfaces for providing incline planes to bear traffic traversing the cover.

41. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover-assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 40, wherein said load bearing surface of said elongated resilient cover includes spaced apart upstanding ribs arranged to extend transversely to the direction of traffic traversing the cover.

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
Applicant: Thomas A. Jesko
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42. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 40, wherein said fasteners are selected from the group consisting of screws, nails and rivets.

43. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 40, wherein said elongated resilient cover comprises an elastomeric material.

44. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 43, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, silicon rubber, nitrile rubber and blends thereof.

45. (Presently Amended) The ~~cover assembly~~ expansion joint of claim 44, wherein said elastomeric material is ethylene-propylene-diene rubber.

46. (Presently Amended) A method for the installation of a cover assembly across a gap between two structural members comprising:

providing a cover assembly comprising an elongated resilient cover having a load bearing surface opposite a support surface including marginal support areas along opposite lateral edges thereof, said cover having a thickness and sufficient elasticity to elastically deform for establishing supporting contact between said marginal support areas and underlying horizontal structural members and a width sufficient to overlie portions of said horizontal structural members outwardly of said gap;

a rigid plate member secured by and encapsulated within said elongated resilient cover for bridging ~~a joint formed in a~~ said gap between said horizontal structural members;
and

Application Serial No.: 10/772,485
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a plurality of fasteners engaged with said cover at spaced apart sites along at least one lateral side portion of said resilient cover to elastically anchor said elongated resilient cover to at least one of the horizontal structural members; and

placing said cover assembly across said gap.

47. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the ~~cover assembly further~~ method comprises providing at least two rigid plate members encapsulated by said elongated resilient cover to extend along opposite lateral sides of said rigid plate member for allowing elastic deformation of said cover and ~~apply~~ for applying a biasing force in a direction to urge opposite lateral sides of said cover toward the horizontal structural members while resiliently deformed by traffic traversing said traffic bearing surface.